

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 15, 2004 has been received and carefully noted. The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-27 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-27 were allowed in the Office Action. Applicant notes with appreciation the finding of allowable subject matter.

The Office Action noted that PTO Form 1449, filed August 16, 2004, was not received by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. In response to the telephone conversation with Examiner Phan and Applicant's representative on December 15, 2004, applicant hereby submits a copy of PTO Form 1449, as filed August 16, 2004. During the telephone conversation, the Examiner indicated the references listed on the PTO Form 1449 did not need to be resubmitted. Applicant respectfully requests that the PTO Form 1449 be initialed by the Examiner and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. F. Nixon', written over a horizontal line.

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Enclosures: PTO Form 1449